THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tamil Nadu Government has not conveyed its clearance for the B.G. connectivity between Chennai Central and Egmore as it would clash with the alignments under the two major projects *viz* Chennai Metro Rail project and the project of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to construct Elevated Expressway connecting Chennai port and Maduravoyal.

Further, the proposed rail link cannot be constructed without the flyover on EVR Periyar High Road for which there is no clearance available from Tamil Nadu State Government side. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been requested to review the decision and send its no objection for execution of the project. Their response is awaited.

(c) In view of status explained in (b) above no categorical assurance can be given at this stage as to when the project can be taken for up execution.

Accidents at unmanned railway crossings

†687.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of collisions between vehicles similar to one that took place between an engine and a bus on 2nd February, 2009 at Firozpur and the number of passenger killed therein during last three years, zone-wise and State-wise;

(b) the percentage of unmanned level crossings that would be changed into manned level crossings in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether research is being done on remote sensing/signalling etc. to avoid such situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Zone-wise number of unmanned level crossing accidents involving dashing of bus/van with trains and the number of persons killed and injured therein during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 and the current year 2008-09 is as under:-

Year	Railway	State	Number of Accidents	Number of persons killed	Number of persons injured
1	2	3	4	5	6
2005-06	South Western	Karnataka	1	5	4
	Northern	Punjab	1	2	3
		Haryana	1	3	5
Total			3	10	12
2006-07	North Western	Rajasthan	1	5	12
	West Central	Rajasthan	1	0	9
	Western	Gujarat	1	6	12
	Northern	Punjab	1	3	23
TOTAL			4	14	56

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2007-08	Southern	Tamil Nadu	1	11	11
	North Eastern	Uttar Pradesh	1	3	9
TOTAL			2	14	20
2008-09 (Upto 13.02.09)	South East Central	Maharashtra	1	0	6
	Northern	Punjab	1	3	13
TOTAL			2	3	19

(b) No such percentage is targeted. However, as on 01.01.2009, out of approximately 17,580 Nos. unmanned level crossings on Indian Railways, 1286 Nos. qualify criteria for manning. All these are likely to be manned in next five years.

(c) Trials to give audio visual warning to road users providing Train Actuated Warning Device at gates have been done in recent past. But, these trials have not been found successful. It has been decided recently to conduct experimental trials of radio based Gate Warning System on Northern Railway.

Change in name of Nanded station

688. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the name of Nanded railway station in Maharashtra has been changed as Hazoor Saheb Nanded;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) if not, how long it would take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Instructions have since been issued for renaming of 'Nanded' railway station as 'Hazur Sahib Nanded' railway station.

Ticket booking service in rural areas

†689. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced railway ticket booking service in rural areas also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any provision under said scheme to provide agencies to the unemployed youths of rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A scheme to appoint Gramin Ticket Booking Sewaks (GTBSs) at roadside stations excluding contractor-operated halts, where the ticket booking arrangements was not satisfactory, was launched on East Central Railway in the year 2006. At present, the scheme of GTBS is operative at 13 stations only.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.